

Student Loan Repayment Assistance Now Available For Mental Health and Addiction Professionals

INDIANAPOLIS (March 23, 2015) - Indiana's Loan Repayment Assistance Program for Mental Health and Addiction Professionals is currently accepting applications to provide loan repayment assistance to eligible psychiatrists, addiction psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric nurses, addiction counselors, and mental health professionals, who are licensed (or on a licensure track), accepting a new position or establishing a new practice in Indiana. Applications must be submitted or postmarked by April 30, 2015 for consideration and are available on the state's loan repayment website.

Applicants also must meet the following eligibility requirements to be considered for this program:

- A recipient must be from Indiana, a new college graduate, and accepting a new position in Indiana.
- A recipient must be employed full-time, which is a minimum of 30 hours per week and
- A recipient must not be in default on repayment of any federal student loans.
- An individual who is moving to Indiana may be eligible if he or she is not currently practicing in Indiana and has not practiced in Indiana for the past three years.

The program will award up to 25 percent of the awardee's student loan debt, not to exceed \$25,000 per year, for no more than four years. The exception is for an addiction psychiatrist who can apply for assistance up to five years. An evaluation tool will be used by the Mental Health and Addictions
Development Programs board to determine the awardees.

Please email <u>DmhaHB1360@fssa.in.gov</u>, or call 317-232-7800 for additional information about the program or visit the <u>loan repayment website</u>.

The Loan Repayment Assistance Program was approved by the Indiana General Assembly (HB 1360) in 2014 and is managed by the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's (FSSA) Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA).

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